



**OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE** : February 4, 2009

**TO** : Council President Hueso & Honorable Members of the San Diego City Council

**FROM** : Mayor Jerry Sanders

**SUBJECT** : Establishment and Appointments to the Mayor's Committee on Disability

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It gives me great pleasure to announce the establishment of the Mayor's Committee on Disability, and appoint Robert Dillon, Helen Elias, Leslie Elion, Louis Frick, Mary Krieger, Loretta Moore, Nielsen Pollock, Christopher Schaefer, and Denise Yoggerst to serve in this important capacity.

Mayor's Committee on Disability Mission: To advise the Mayor and City of San Diego on disability issues and compliance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as it applies to state and local governments, including issues of access to City buildings, programs, services and activities.

Purpose & Intent: To serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor on the City's ADA compliance efforts, and review and advise on City policies and procedures related to issues and services for the disabled community.

Role and Responsibilities: The nine-member volunteer advisory committee will receive information and advise staff on the City's annual ADA Projects and the ongoing work of Disability Services.

From among the membership, two working subcommittees will specifically meet and advise on:

- **Policy:** Review City policies, procedures and administrative regulations as appropriate
- **Access:** Review architectural designs for new construction, alterations, intersections and other City projects in reference to the ADA and their potential impact on people with disabilities.

These subcommittees will meet on an as-needed basis when items needing review arise.

Appointment:

Members shall be appointed by the Mayor and shall serve without compensation. During February of each year, the Mayor shall designate one member to serve as Chairperson. Each member shall serve until a successor is duly appointed and qualified. Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. A Vice Chair will be elected from the body each year during the month of February.

Term:

Members shall serve two-year terms and shall be limited to a maximum of six years. The members shall be appointed in such a manner that the terms of not more than five (5) members shall expire in any year. For the initial appointments, five members shall be appointed to an initial term that shall expire on February 1, 2010, and four members shall be appointed to an initial term that shall expire February 1, 2011. Thereafter, the expiration date of all terms shall be February 1.

Composition: Composed of nine (9) members. The members shall be people with disabilities and/or individuals with expertise, training, or interest in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), California Building Standards Code Title 24, or disability services. All members shall be residents of the County of San Diego.

Meetings will be conducted monthly except for August and December and will be staffed by Disability Services. Meetings of the Mayor's Committee on Disability will be open to the public, in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. The Committee will be governed by the Mayor's establishing document, and will conduct meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. The Committee shall adopt rules consistent with the law for the government of its business and procedures.

The following nine members have been selected to serve on the Mayor's Committee on Disability:

Robert Dillon has worked in various capacities for the Zoological Society of San Diego for more than 21 years, and currently serves as the Associate Director of Operations. In this role, he is responsible for the overall guest experience, appearance of facilities, and directing the activities of various departments and approximately 240 employees. Mr. Dillon develops and approves operational policies and procedures, oversees operational short- and long-term plans, and participates in the planning and implementation of major construction projects.

Mr. Dillon is also the ADA Coordinator for the Zoo representing the organization in matters relating to the ADA and accessibility by working closely with the Zoo's legal department and an Access Advisory Group to recommend and provide policies, procedures, and training on the ADA and California laws for both the San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park. Mr. Dillon also regularly conducts employee trainings on the ADA for front-line employees, managers, and executive staff, and speaks nationally on disability issues including workshops on *ADA and Service Animals* and *Transforming Passion into Organizational Buy-In for Inclusion and Accessibility*. From 1967-1987, Mr. Dillon served as a Captain in the United States Marine Corps, and retired after twenty years experience as a Combat Photographer and Training Officer.

Beyond Mr. Dillon's professional obligations, for the last seven years, he and his dog, Marley, have volunteered for Rady's Children's Hospital Pet Therapy Program. Mr. Dillon will serve for a term expiring February 1, 2010. He resides in Escondido.

Helen Elias is the Director of Disability Support Services for Southwestern College and represents disabled students, and consults and advises faculty to ensure accommodations and services are provided to the college's disabled population. From 1979-2005, she was the Coordinator for the Disabled Students Program and Services, and the Interim Dean of Student Development at San Diego City College. She was also an Orientation and Mobility Specialist at the San Diego Center for the Blind from 1972-1979.

Ms. Elias is professionally and personally passionate about serving and advocating on behalf of the disabled community. Her expertise includes more than 28 years experience in ADA compliance, Americans with Disability Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and California's Building Code - Title 24. Her professional affiliations and volunteer experiences include serving on the Environmental Access Committee with the Association of Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, A117 Subcommittee of the national Access Standards Committee, and Walk San Diego. In addition, Ms. Elias has 30 years experience advocating for the disabled within the city and county of San Diego. She co-founded the City's Citizens' Review Committee for the Removal of Architectural Barriers and the Subcommittee for Removal of Access Barriers, and has served on the Metropolitan Transit (MTDB) Technical Advisory Committee, and the Port of San Diego's ADA Committee. Her experience in teaching visually-impaired adults to travel independently led to her interest in accessible paths and universal design of streets and intersections, and public transportation. Nationally, Ms. Elias advises on walkable communities and pedestrians with disabilities, including those with visual impairments.

Ms. Elias holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education for the Blind and Visually Impaired from the University of Michigan and a Master of Science degree in Education in Orientation and Mobility from Boston College. Ms. Elias will serve for a term expiring February 1, 2010. She resides in Clairemont.

Leslie Elion is the Executive Director of Deaf Community Services of San Diego, Inc., and brings many years experience in serving the Deaf community. As Executive Director, Ms. Elion is responsible for advocating for Deaf and hard of hearing clients, creating alliances with key agencies and institutions to establish, improve, and expand services, and provide guidance on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Among Ms. Elion's achievements at Deaf Community Services, she was instrumental in collaborating with the Moores Cancer Center at the University of California, San Diego, to establish a cancer education program for the Deaf community, the first program of its kind in the nation. As a member of the Deaf community, Ms. Elion has strived personally and professionally to increase awareness of disability issues by serving on various state and national boards. She chaired the Deaf Community Services of San Diego, Inc. Board of Directors for five years. From 2005-2008, she represented the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) on the National Council of Interpreting Code of Ethics Committee, and Professional Standards Committee, under the aegis of the Registry of Interpreters for the

Deaf (RID). In addition, she served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer for the Deaf Rehabilitation Program in Manila, Philippines.

Ms. Elion's efforts on behalf of the Deaf community have been acknowledged by various state and national organizations and entities. She received the National Association of the Deaf Chief Executive Officer's Award for exceptional service in 2006, and the joint NAD-RID Outstanding Services to Interpreting Award in 2005. She also received an Academic Achievement Award in Disability Law from California Western School of Law.

Ms. Elion holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, and a Juris Doctor degree from California Western School of Law. Ms. Elion will serve for a term expiring February 1, 2011. She resides in Normal Heights.

Louis Frick has more than 14 years experience in disability services, disability policy, ADA compliance issues, and Universal Design. Since 2003, Mr. Frick has served as the Executive Director of Access to Independence (a2i), an independent living center promoting full inclusion by empowering and challenging people with disabilities to achieve their greatest potential. Previously, Mr. Frick was the Deputy Director of Business Operations for Access Center of San Diego, which later became Access to Independence. A quadriplegic since 1977, Mr. Frick has passionately advocated for the disabled community by serving on various boards including the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), San Diego Disability Action Coalition, and Unified Port of San Diego's Accessibility Advisory Committee. He was also actively engaged in representing the disabled on the design of Petco Park to ensure the ballpark was user-friendly and accessible to all. As a result of his collaborative nature and outstanding participation with Petco Park, in 2005, Mr. Frick received a Peacemaker Award by the National Conflict Resolution Center.

Mr. Frick is frequently featured in print, radio, and television for his expertise and insight on disability issues. He has also presented disability awareness programs for numerous colleges, groups and associations including Catholic Community Services, San Diego State University, and United Way.

Based on Mr. Frick's diverse experiences in service to the disability community, his leadership ability, collaborative nature, board experiences, and expertise on ADA compliance issues, it is my pleasure to designate Mr. Frick as the Chair of the Mayor's Committee on Disability. Mr. Frick received a Bachelor's degree in Vocational Education (BVE) from San Diego State University. He will serve for a term expiring February 1, 2011. Mr. Frick resides in La Mesa.

Mary Krieger has been the Associate Executive Director at United Cerebral Palsy of San Diego County (UCP) for the past 11 years. With UCP for more than 28 years, Ms. Krieger has served the agency in a variety of capacities including Director of Programs and Social Service Coordinator. In her role as Associate Executive Director, she provides oversight and supervision of 14 programs and services in five locations, develops budgets, provides grant writing and reporting, and makes presentations to community agencies.

Ms. Krieger has worked in the field of disability rights and the development/delivery of community-based programs for people with disabilities and their families for 33 years. She has a strong background working with a wide range of people with severe physical disabilities as well as developmental disabilities, and a keen interest in assistive technology and public access issues. She is also a member of many state and national disability organizations. Ms. Krieger's professional memberships and affiliations include the Alliance for Technology Access, Association for Persons in Supported Employment, Developmental Disabilities Provider Network, National United Cerebral Palsy Association, TASH – an international association for inclusive communities, and the San Diego Disability Action Coalition.

Ms. Krieger holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from San Diego State University. She will serve for a term expiring February 1, 2011. Ms. Krieger resides in Escondido.

Loretta Moore has worked at the San Diego Center for the Blind for more than 24 years in various capacities including Daily Living Skills Instructor, Volunteer Coordinator, Manager, and Grant Writer. Previously, she worked at the Social Security Administration as a Service Representative initiating Medicare and Social Security claims. Ms. Moore's expertise and work experience includes knowledge in the areas of telecommunications equipment for all disability groups, independent living, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Visually impaired from birth, Ms. Moore has passionately served in many capacities at the Center for the Blind, in the community, and on various boards and committees at the local, state and national levels. She has served on the Accessible San Diego Board of Directors, San Diego Community Services Citizen's Review Committee on ADA and Disability Issues, and currently sits on San Diego's Chief of Police Advisory Committee on Disability which advises on interaction between the disability community and the police department. As a result of Ms. Moore's expertise and insight into disability issues, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed her to the State Independent Living Council which advises on legislative issues affecting disabled Californians. In addition, Ms. Moore has participated in developing disaster preparedness plans for people with disabilities for the City of San Diego, and the National Fire Protection Association.

Ms. Moore holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. Ms. Moore resides in City Heights. She will serve for a term expiring February 1, 2011.

D. Nielsen (Niel) Pollock is the President of Nielsen Construction California, and has more than 28 years of construction industry experience in Southern California. The Nielsen family has built numerous landmark projects and schools in the San Diego community over the last 60 years including the Geisel Library at UCSD, Hyatt Aventine, Meridian – the city's first high-rise condominium downtown, Qualcomm Stadium's Renovation/Expansion, the original Sea World Park, Shamu Stadium, and the Preuss School at UCSD. As a licensed General Contractor, Construction Manager, and Construction Industry Professional, Mr. Nielsen has extensive professional expertise in California Building Standards Code/Title 24 and ADA compliance. He became more



intimately involved with ADA compliance issues in 2002, after an accident severed his spinal cord leaving him paralyzed.

Mr. Pollock regularly advocates for the disabled community by participating in various educational awareness and fund-raising programs. He is the Co-founder of the Ranchero Fund, administered through the Sharp HealthCare Foundation, which provides essential medical equipment to those recently injured and raises awareness on spinal cord injuries. As a result of his efforts with the Ranchero Fund, in 2005, Mr. Nielsen received the Eagle Spirit Award from the Sharp HealthCare Foundation. In addition to Mr. Nielsen's philanthropic work, he is an active member of the Peninsula YMCA, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and other local community organizations.

Mr. Pollock received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, San Diego, and holds a Class B General Building Contractor's license from the State of California. Mr. Pollock resides in Point Loma. He will serve for a term-expiring February 1, 2010.

Christopher Schaefer was injured in an ocean diving accident in 1981 and became a quadriplegic at the age of 27. Since that life-changing moment, he has dedicated his life to advocating for the disabled community. Mr. Schaefer's volume of volunteer experience includes serving as the Chairman of the Board for Saint Clare Management, Inc. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which provides unique housing needs for people with disabilities and limited incomes. He is also the Past President and current member of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association, and past member of the City of Brookfield Americans with Disabilities Act Committee in Wisconsin. Mr. Schaefer also served on the Board of Directors for the Independence First Independent Living Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has also provided numerous presentations on spinal cord injury prevention programs, rehabilitation, and physical therapy for various hospitals, medical centers, and universities.

Mr. Schaefer's physical limitations have not held him back personally, professionally, or in service to the community. In 1988, Mr. Schaefer competed as a member of the USA Paralympic Team for the Paralympics in Seoul, Korea. He is also a past member of the Road Racing Team for the Spinal Cord Injury Center of Froedtert Hospital. A resident of San Diego since 2001, Mr. Schaefer also volunteers his time as a Docent for the San Diego Natural History Museum, and is the President of the Fairway Heights Homeowners Association in Rancho Bernardo.

Mr. Schaefer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Milwaukee. Mr. Schaefer will serve for a term expiring February 1, 2010. He resides in Rancho Bernardo.

Denise Yoggerst is a Special Projects Director for Able-Disabled Advocacy, Inc., which provides education, occupational skills training, and job placement assistance to over 10,000 youth and adults representing all ethnicities and types of disabilities. In her role as Special Projects Director, Ms. Yoggerst manages and oversees state and national grants that provide employment-related services for people with disabilities to ensure that performance standards are met. Her more than 30 years experience in workforce

development and service to underserved and disabled communities includes serving as a Mentoring Coordinator for Able-Disabled Advocacy, Grants Development Specialist for the Family Health Center of San Diego, and Grants Manager and Adult Team Manager for the San Diego Workforce Partnership. She also has great insight and expertise in ADA accessibility requirements. Among her professional accomplishments, Ms. Yoggerst was instrumental in conducting an accessibility survey of the One-Stop Career Centers to ensure that people with disabilities have access to job-training and employment opportunities to ultimately lead to career advancement and long-term employment. Ms. Yoggerst's professional affiliations include the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals.

Ms. Yoggerst has served on numerous task forces that have created and provided specialized programs for people with disabilities. She also speaks nationally at conferences on topics including best practices for people with disabilities, and effectively collaborates with state and local governments, boards, community-based organizations, and school districts on disability issues.

Ms. Yoggerst is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Non-Profit Business Management from UCSD Extension. Ms. Yoggerst will serve for a term expiring February 1, 2010. She resides in Scripps Ranch.

Please join me in acknowledging these outstanding members of the community who bring of wealth of expertise to serve the City of San Diego in this important capacity.



JERRY SANDERS  
Mayor

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cc: City Attorney Jan Goldsmith  
City Clerk Elizabeth Maland